

Fiery stomach first drove Dugout Dick to Salmon River

But thirst for ore, capitalism has kept him living in caves

SALMON, Idaho (AP) — Fire in his stomach drove Richard Zimmerman to the Salmon River, but it was a thirst for ore and an abundant vein of capitalism that turned him into a cavernian named Dugout Dick.

Today, the aging man who proudly claims the same birthday as Buffalo Bill farms a fertile bank of the river, recites Bible verses to anyone who will listen and watches hungrily for travelers who pause along U.S. 93 and stare at his mysterious mountain dugouts.

"I never gave much thought to this tourist stuff," says Dick, who has the leanness, wispy beard and creased face of Father Time.

"But people were always walking down along the trail to see what I was up to, and I just figured, 'Heck, charge 'em for it.'"

The 68-year-old former shepherd-er and prospector has become part of the Lemhi Valley's lore in his years at "Hole in the Mountain," his hand-dug cave festooned with chrome car parts and castoff windshields.

Dick says he first saw the spot more than 30 years ago in his search for a place to raise goats for their milk and meat, and to grow other foods kind to his troubled stomach.

But he says his gastrointestinal problems have worsened so much over the years he can eat little that he raises.

Now, most of the things he grows he tries to sell, often to tourists who stop at the string of caves he hollowed in a hillside overshadowing the Salmon River near its confluence with Rattlesnake Creek.

Dick likes to deal in dollars, principally in ones.

"Take pictures — all you want — \$1," invites a sign posted just before the cave he calls home.

A dollar also will buy a tour of his dugouts and timbered huts, or at least those he doesn't rent to itinerants for \$15 a month — "\$10 on the hill where it's far from the water."

Still more folding money entitles visitors to sketch his picture, or buy a Dugout Dick profile published by a Montana weekly newspaper.

"Costs me 15 cents to make a copy, and I sell it for \$1," Dick says.

The story of his life on the Salmon and the existence he literally carved for himself began with a quest for copper.

"I just started digging, and I kept digging" until he had a string of dugouts, he says. "I've been digging since 1948."

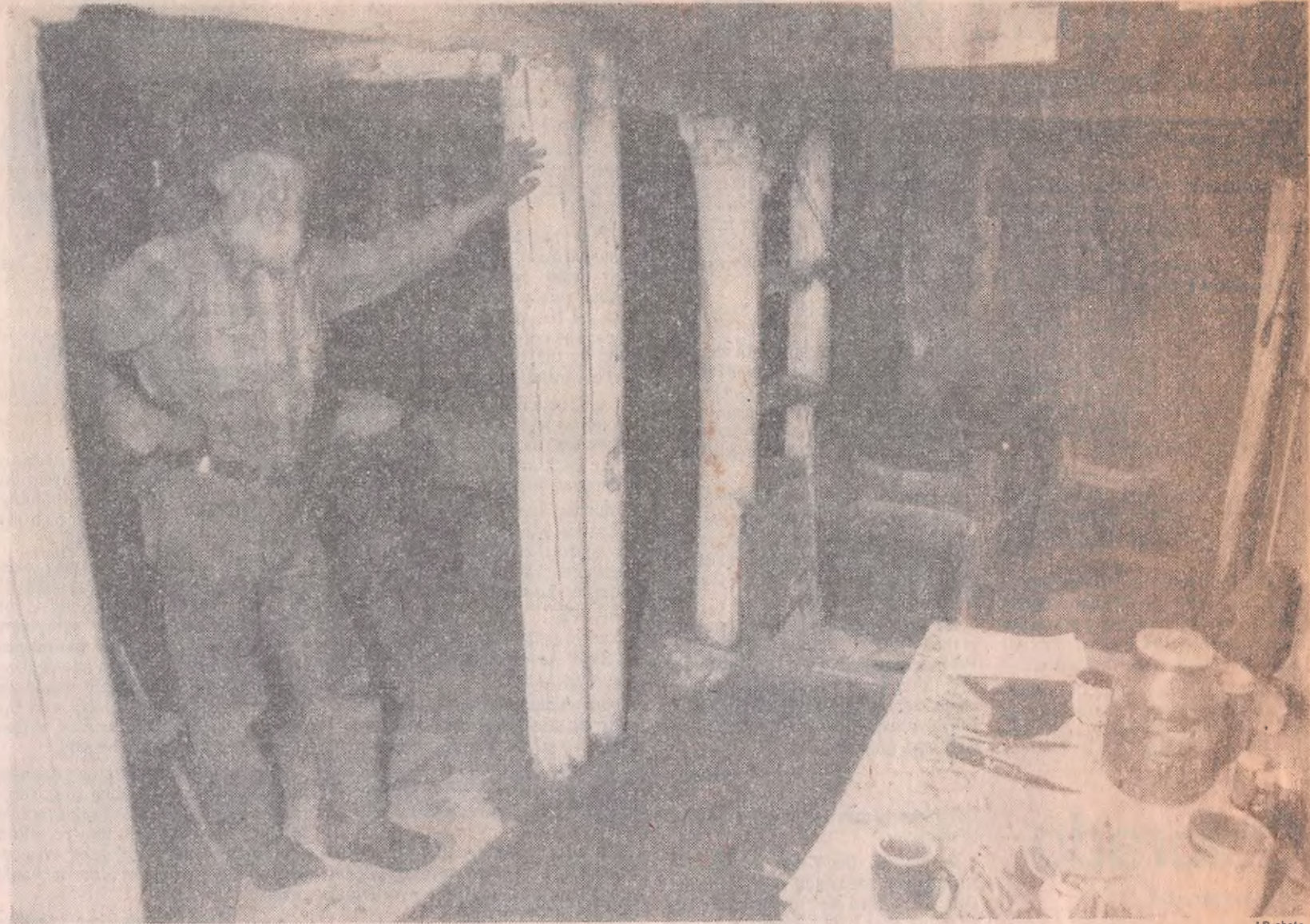
The cave he occupies was finished in 1969, by Dick's account.

"I just dug a hole here and shored it up," he says. "I put mud behind the rocks to keep the mice and rats out."

Furnishings in his home include patchwork linoleum on the floor, a woodburning stove that heats the place in winter and a custom-built bed with a dip for Dick's hip.

Gritty dust coats nearly everything except the table where he keeps jars of sassafras tea and rhubarb juice, a kerosene lamp and Dugout Dick postcards.

"This is my home. I don't want to live anywhere else," he says.



Dugout Dick in the hand-dug mountain cave where he lives. The dugout is festooned with chrome car parts and windshields.

Dick was married for a time, but now he's on his own, claiming contentment with the ghosts he says visit his

cave, the locals who know him and travelers passing through. They come from everywhere.

"There were some people here from Australia, and they were really impressed," Dick says.

"I guess they thought all of Idaho was this way. They thought the rest of you were just like me."

AP photo

Longtime rural physician, Myron E. Bird, dies at 88

DELTA — Dr. Myron Evans Bird, 88, who provided medical service to a large rural population for more than half a century, died Dec. 30, 1984, in a Provo hospital.

Dr. Bird came to Delta in 1929 to set up a country practice and served the town and widespread west Millard County until retiring in 1983. He estimated he delivered 5,000 babies, including three generations of the same families in some instances. Many of the infants were delivered at home under primitive conditions. In one case, the father, who was holding a lantern to assist the doctor, fainted and set fire to the house. The doctor had to douse the fire before he could continue with the delivery.

From 1940 to 1949, he was the only physician in the area. He provided service to the 10,000 Japanese held in the Topaz Relocation Camp during World War II.

During the 1930s, he also cared for young men with the Civilian Conservation Corps, which had a camp on the western desert. His six-bed hospital often was overflowing with patients.

Besides his medical practice, which often occupied 18 to 24 hours a day, he was involved in community activities. He served as Delta's mayor for four

years and was instrumental in getting the highway through the area built. He promoted health training programs in which 75 percent of the county residents, at one time, were educated in self-help and home care. He pushed construction of the new hospital in the community and was a leader in a project to build senior citizen. Gov. Calvin L. Rampton appointed him to the State Council on Aging.

Dr. Bird was a musician, singing in local productions and playing the bass horn and tuba. He sang with the Desert Sentinels male chorus and led the choir in his ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also had served six years as bishop of the ward. He was a charter member of the local Lions Club.

A native of Manti, he attended LDS Business College, then pursued his medical degree at the University of Utah. He also attended the University of Illinois and interned in Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Delta 3rd-4th LDS Ward Chapel. Friends may call at the Nickle Mortuary, Delta, from 7 to 9 p.m. and at the chapel for an hour before the service. Burial will be in Delta City Cemetery. (Obituary on B-5.)

Colorado. It carries undesirable salt to the river.

In addition, the West's many salty springs and seeps add salinity to the Colorado, which is so important to agriculture that it is sometimes called the lifeblood of the West.

The Colorado picks up a heavier and heavier salt load as it works its way to the Gulf of California. Some years, the salinity has been so high that by the time the river reaches the

Massacre spurs Amnesty volunteer

By Joseph Bauman
Deseret News staff writer

When he was in the Peace Corps in Honduras nearly 20 years ago, Yana Murphy saw American-trained troops commit a massacre.

"In 1965, I witnessed 25 people, primarily farmers — campesinos — and students get shot down in the street of Tegucigalpa," the capital of the Honduras.

"They had a reasonably peaceful demonstration outside the 12-foot-high, locked, iron gates of the presidential palace. And around from the back of the palace came an army truck. The only thing that wasn't supplied by the United States were the soldiers inside the uniforms.

"And it backed down the street, and the fellow who was sitting in the passenger seat as they passed me jumped in the back and uncovered a submachine gun and just shot all the people."

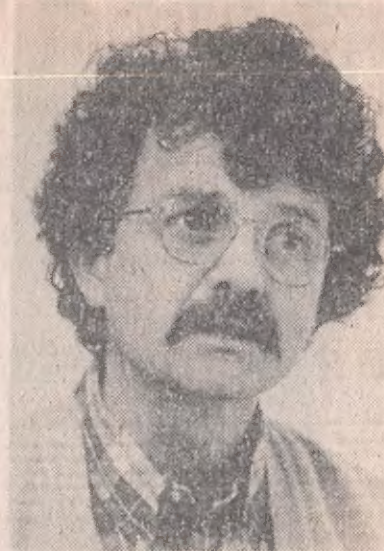
Murphy, now a fifth-grade teacher in Kamas, was hiding in the vestibule of a boarded-up bank and watched the massacre. "I threw up in the vestibule and went out to assist those who were still living."

That was the start of his interest in Central America's brutal human rights violations.

Now a volunteer for Amnesty International, Murphy works to end torture, as well as to end imprisonment of people for political reasons. The group, with about 350,000 members in 150 countries, has its headquarters in London.

He said no more than 70 or 80 Utahns are Amnesty International volunteers, and only five are actual members of the group.

Interested Utahns are invited to at-



Yana Murphy

tend Amnesty International's monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the University of Utah Union Building. The meetings are held there on the first Thursday of each month.

The Salt Lake group is trying to establish itself as stable enough to "adopt" particular prisoners, for whose release it would campaign. "When Amnesty International assigns a case, it's usually two to an adoption group — one from what would be called a right-wing country and the other from a left-wing country, so that it's very evenhanded," he said.

The group sticks with the prisoners and does not stop writing to government leaders and taking other action in their behalf "until they're either certifiably dead or released, regardless of the amount of time it would take."

That commitment can require years of effort, and 4,000 Amnesty In-

ternational adoption groups are active throughout the world. Amnesty works for about 5,000 new prisoners every year. Families of victims are helped with food, clothing and schooling for children where possible.

Each group works on behalf of prisoners held in countries other than its own, he said. "This ensures that impartiality and independence remain fundamental to all AI's activities."

If a prisoner is taken to a detention center where torture is known to have been practiced, "volunteers in dozens of countries are alerted, and within hours, hundreds of telegrams and other appeals are on their way to the government, prison or detention center."

Few Utahns are aware that Salt Lake City is the location for Amnesty's U.S. action on Central America. "All of the stuff that Amnesty does for Central America goes through Salt Lake City," Murphy said.

A special Salt Lake group deals with reports of human rights violations in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. No special group has been set up to investigate possible repression in Mexico, though Murphy thinks one may be needed.

Amnesty International works for three different kinds of prisoners:

—"Prisoners of conscience," men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion. To qualify as a prisoner of conscience, the prisoners must never have used or advocated violence.

—Political prisoners, for whom it advocates fair and prompt trials. It also takes action on behalf of other people detained without charge or trial.

—People under death sentence, or

those who are under threat of "torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

The organization does not advocate or oppose any governmental or political system, Murphy said.

As an example of Amnesty International's actions, take Murphy's letter, sent Christmas Eve to Li Xiannian, president of China, and Zhang Wenjin, that country's ambassador in Washington.

The letter begins by noting the "fortunate improvement" in U.S.-Chinese relations, and expresses the hope that the trend continues.

"However, many U.S. citizens are concerned about China's human rights record," the letter says. It lists 25 people held since 1955, including religious believers and "Democracy Movement activists." The letter calls for their release.

"It is our heartfelt hope that human rights violations everywhere will soon be a thing of the past," it says.

Sometimes, governments respond to the searchlight of world opinion that Amnesty International aims at them.

"But the usual case is that there is silence from the government, the prisoner's captors and the prisoner himself," he said. "But occasionally we will hear of something where the prisoners have known over a period of years that Amnesty International has been rallying on their behalf to petition the government not to torture them, not to kill them.

"We even hear that during the time these letters have been arriving, their treatment has been better, the food they have received has been of a higher quality. It's quite incredible, the effect of these letters."

Colorado

Continued from B-1

The seeps or streams are at South Salt Wash in the San Rafael Swell close to I-70, and Salt Wash, about 15 miles north of Hanksville. The latter location is three miles south of the San Rafael Reef.

"They are streams that are at times

Libraries offering many self-improvement classes